Rajasthan and Betla in Bihar. Final instalment for the purchase of five minibuses for use at Sasangir National Park in Gujarat has been released. Further, funds have also been provided for new projects of construction of Forest Lodge at Neyyar Dam Sanctuary in Kerala and for fabrication of a cruising vessel for use in Sunderbans in West Bengal. An amount of Rs. 34.70 lakhs has already been spent on these projects.

During the remaining period of the current Five Year Plan it is proposed to provide funds for the various on-going projects. Certain new projects will also be takes up keeping in view the *inter-se* priorities and availability of funds.

Development of tourism in Kerala

717. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what are the projects proposed by the Kerala Government for the promotion of tourism in the State;

(b) what are the details of projects cleared and the progress in their implementation;

(c) what are the financial commitments of the Centre and the State for their implementation; and

(d) what are the reasons for which Government are not taking full advantage of the nature and beauty of Kerala and develop it into a tourist centre of international reputation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) The details about the project proposed by the Kerala Government for promotion of tourism in the State, projects cleared by the Central Government and the progress in their implementation are given in the enclosed Statement. [See Appendix CXLVIII, Annexure No. 35].

(c) The Central Government provides funds for creation of infrastructure erection of buildings, internal water supply, electricity, etc. whereas the State Government contributes land for the project free of cost and also provides external water supply, electricity and approach road. The cost of the furnishings, site development, compound wall, fencing, etc. is also the responsibility of the State Government. The State Government undertakes the responsibiliy for maintenance of the facilities for which the funds are being released and no reimbursement on account of losses incurred, if any, would be made by the Centre. The asset so created would remain the property of the Central Government and it would be leased out to the State Government on a nominal charge of Rs. 1/- per annum

(d) The Central Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism and the Government of Kerala are taking full advantage of the nature and beauty of Kerala and develop it into a tourist centre of international reputation. However, receipt of proposals and sanction of Central financial assistance to States for creation of tourism infrastructure is an on-going process. Each year, the Ministry invites proposals from the State Governments/Union Territories for inclusion in the Annual Plans of the Ministry. These proposals are included in the Annual Plans subject to the framework and the guidelines laid down in the 7th Five Year Plan. For 1988-89, the Ministry has received proposals from the State Governments/Union Territories and these relate to Central financial assistance for infrastructure development at tourist centres, cultural tourism, beach tourism, wildlife tourism, yatri niwases, adventure and sports tourism, floodlighting of monuments, sound and light shows ,etc. The Ministry does not allocate funds either Statewise or project-wise but scheme-wise. The Ministry provides financial assistance to States for creation of tourism infrastructure on the basis of specific proposals received from the State Government. These proposals are taken up for financial assistance subject to the potential of the place, existing infrastructure, existing and projected tourist traffic, overall merits of proposal, viability of the project, availability of funds and *inter-se* priorities